

HEALTH CARE HIGHLIGHTS

Gov. Ritter and lawmakers kept Colorado moving forward down the road toward meaningful health care reform, addressing key cost, quality and access issues.

- **Senate Bill 10-058, Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program (Tapia/Gagliardi).** Improves the existing nurse loan forgiveness program by extending eligibility requirements. The new program encourages more classroom and clinical faculty and the number of new nurses that can be trained each year.
- **SB 10-167, Medicaid Efficiencies Act (Boyd/Riesberg).** Saves taxpayer money by eliminating waste and improving efficiencies in the state's Medicaid system.
- **House Bill 10-1004, Standardization of Health Insurance Information to Consumers (Massey/Foster).** Protects consumers by standardizing insurance benefit and policy forms.
- **HB 10-1008, Gender Fairness in Health Insurance (S. Schafer/Schwartz & M. Carroll).** Prohibits gender discrimination in health insurance. Studies have shown women pay almost 40 percent more than men for the same coverage.
- **HB 10-1138, Health Care Jobs for Colorado (Gagliardi/Morse).** Provides incentives for health care professionals to practice in rural and underserved communities. It will improve existing public and private loan repayment programs, help build the state's primary care workforce, and energize these local economies.
- **HB 10-1166, Insurance Policies Written in Plain Language (Kefalas/Newell).** Requires insurance companies to write policies in plain, easy-to-understand language.
- **HB 10-1242, Uniform Application in Individual Insurance Market (Apuan/Tochtrop).** Requires insurance carriers to accept a standard initial application. Currently, if you want to buy health insurance in the individual market you have to complete separate applications for each carrier, and many of these applications require filling out complex questionnaires.
- **HB 10-1330, All-Payer Database (Kefalas & Kagan/ Morse).** Improves transparency in the health care system by establishing a database of claims.
- **HB 10-1252, Updating Mammography Benefits (Primavera/Schwartz & Boyd)** Protects women's health by ensuring needed breast cancer screenings are covered by insurance plans.
- **HB 10-1332, Standardized Insurance Coding (Miklosi/Romer).** Streamlines and standardizes insurance claims and will cut down on duplication and bureaucracy that takes doctors' time away from patient care.
- **HB 10-1414, Drug Diversion Name Reporting (Benefield/Foster).** Allows the Department of Public Health and Environment to gain timely access to the names of individuals responsible for diverting injectable drugs to evaluate the potential for disease transmission.
- **HB 10-1415, Sunrise Surgical Tech Registration (Gagliardi/Morse).** Requires surgical techs and assistants to register with the state before being allowed to perform any surgical duties. Requires employers to make sure surgical technologists and assistants are in good standing.